

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composite image forming apparatus that has at least a first function, a second function and a third function, comprising:

5 a first control section to permit use of the first function if a code input by an operation of a user coincides with a preregistered permission code;

 an enable key to store a code;

 a setting section to set the enable key;

10 a reading section to read the code stored in the enable key when the enable key is set in the setting section;

 a second control section to permit use of the second function if the code read by the reading section coincides with a preregistered code; and

15 a third control section to permit use of the third function if use of the first function and use of the second function are both permitted.

20 2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,

 wherein the first function is a scanner function, the second function is a printer function, and the third function is a facsimile function.

25 3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

 the first control section inhibits use of the first function if the code input by the operation of

the user coincides with a preregistered inhibition code;

the second control section inhibits use of the second function when the enable key is reset from the setting section; and

the third control section inhibits use of the third function if use of one of the first and second functions is inhibited.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a fourth control section to permit use of the second function if a code scanned by the scanner function coincides with the preregistered permission code.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a fourth control section to permit use of the second function only for a fixed period if a code scanned by the scanner function coincides with the preregistered permission code.

6. The image forming apparatus according to one of claims 4 and 5, wherein:

the first control section inhibits use of the first function if the code input by the operation of the user coincides with a preregistered inhibition code;

the second control section inhibits use of the

second function when the enable key is reset from the setting section;

the third control section inhibits use of the third function if use of one of the first and second functions is inhibited; and

the fourth control section inhibits use of the second function if the code scanned by the scanner function coincides with the preregistered inhibition code.

7. A composite image forming apparatus that has at least a first function, a second function and a third function, comprising:

first control means for permitting use of the first function if a code input by an operation of a user coincides with a preregistered permission code;

an enable key to store a code;

setting means for setting the enable key;

reading means for reading the code stored in the enable key when the enable key is set in the setting means;

second control means for permitting use of the second function if the code read by the reading means coincides with a preregistered code; and

third control means for permitting use of the third function if use of the first function and use of the second function are both permitted.

8. The image forming apparatus according to

claim 7,

wherein the first function is a scanner function,
the second function is a printer function, and the
third function is a facsimile function.

5 9. The image forming apparatus according to
claim 7, wherein:

the first control means inhibits use of the first
function if the code input by the operation of the user
coincides with a preregistered inhibition code;

10 the second control means inhibits use of the
second function when the enable key is reset from the
setting means; and

the third control means inhibits use of the third
function if use of one of the first and second
15 functions is inhibited.

10. The image forming apparatus according to
claim 7, further comprising:

fourth control means for permitting use of the
second function if a code scanned by the scanner
20 function coincides with the preregistered permission
code.

11. The image forming apparatus according to
claim 7, further comprising:

fourth control means for permitting use of the
25 second function only for a fixed period if a code
scanned by the scanner function coincides with the
preregistered permission code.

12. The image forming apparatus according to one of claims 10 and 11, wherein:

the first control means inhibits use of the first function if the code input by the operation of the user
5 coincides with a preregistered inhibition code;

the second control means inhibits use of the second function when the enable key is reset from the setting section;

the third control means inhibits use of the third
10 function if use of one of the first and second functions is inhibited; and

the fourth control means inhibits use of the second function if the code scanned by the scanner function coincides with the preregistered inhibition
15 code.

13. A method of controlling a composite image forming apparatus that has at least a first function, a second function and a third function, comprising:

permitting use of the first function if a code
20 input by an operation of a user coincides with a preregistered permission code;

reading a code stored in an enable key when the enable key that has stored the code is set;

permitting use of the second function if the read
25 code coincides with a preregistered code; and

permitting use of the third function if use of the first function and use of the second function are both

permitted.

14. The method of controlling the image forming apparatus according to claim 13,

5 wherein the first function is a scanner function, the second function is a printer function, and the third function is a facsimile function.

15. The method of controlling the image forming apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

10 permitting use of the second function if a code scanned by the scanner function coincides with the preregistered permission code.

16. The method of controlling the image forming apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

15 permitting use of the second function only for a fixed period if a code scanned by the scanner function coincides with the preregistered permission code.